

Dr Sun Xiansheng
Secretary General, International Energy Forum, Riyadh
Speaking Opening Session (8:30-8:40)

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Welcome to the **Seventh IEA IEF OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks!**

It is my **great pleasure** to welcome **His Excellency and my good friend Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo**, the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, and **Mr Kamel Ben Naceur**, representing the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, and **to host you** on behalf of the three organisations, **at the IEF Secretariat here in Riyadh today.**

As the **host country of the IEF producer consumer dialogue**, I am grateful for **the steadfast support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, and recognise **the unwavering support of His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud and His Excellency Khalid Al Falih, Minister of Energy Industry and Mineral Resources** for open and inclusive energy dialogue on the IEF platform.

It is a pleasure to welcome **Dr Ibrahim Al Muhanna, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Saudi Arabia**, who is here to salute you on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and **Dr Majid Al Moneef**, adviser to the Royal Court alongside many other senior government and industry representatives of our esteemed host country.

We shall have the privilege of welcoming **His Excellency Khalid A. Al Falih**, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia, later today for a **luncheon address**, to dignify your presence and underscore the importance of this Seventh IEA IEF OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks as part of **the trilateral workprogramme that Ministers agreed at the 12th IEF Ministerial in Cancun and encouraged to expand upon at the 15th IEF Ministerial hosted by Algeria in Algiers.**

I also wish to recognise the presence of **His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa**, the Minister of Oil of Bahrain, and **His Excellency Mohamed Zayed Awad Mousa**, Minister of Petroleum of Sudan. Both who have **graciously agreed** to help preside over our session discussions. I also warmly welcome **His Excellency Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Minister in Charge of the Prime Minister's Economic Planning Unit** of Malaysia and all other dignitaries.

To help place our discussions on energy outlooks in the context of **the global goals on sustainable growth and development** I am proud that **Her Excellency Shamshad Akhtar**, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific **agreed to give a special address through her designate representative.**

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman!

In the global energy transition, **change is a new constant**. Global **energy security depends**, more than ever, on boosting commitment, reliability and trust. This can only be obtained **by a truly globally engaged and vibrant energy dialogue**

Following Energy Ministers requests **at the 15th IEF Ministerial in Algiers to enhance the IEF Energy Dialogue**, your presence here today lifts discussions to a higher level and testifies to the fact that the Joint IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks has become a **flagship events in the international energy dialogue**.

As **the new Secretary General**, I view the International Energy Forum to be:

- The leading, influential, reliable, and sustainable international organization for **global energy dialogue**, and
- **The platform of choice** for the **inclusive promotion of global energy security and orderly energy transitions**.

To achieve this the IEF platform **fulfils five key functions**:

1. **Bridge** differences between producers and consumers
2. **Enhance** transparency in energy markets for stability
3. **Accelerate** efficiency gains through knowledge sharing
4. **Overcome** hurdles to integrate and transfer new technologies
5. **Identify** synergies between policies of countries and institutions

We are proud to be entrusted with this **great mission, in which your contribution is critical, to serve the shared interest of energy producing and consuming countries in a more secure and healthy**

energy future in collaboration with IEF member countries, the IEA and OPEC, other international organisations, and industry stakeholders.

Healthy energy markets and the successful **achievement of global goals** shall continue to depend on **informal and open dialogue** among **Heads of Organisations, Ministers, senior industry and government representatives and knowledge partners in all disciplines** to **deepen insights** into energy outlooks and **shape new lasting bonds in what remain changeable markets**.

To further emphasize the inclusive and informal nature of our discussions we invite you all to join in a group picture **as a testimony to the special platform that the IEF uniquely provides**.

With these words, it is my pleasure to pass the floor to **His Excellency and my good friend Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo**, Your Excellency the floor is yours.

Thank you your Excellency, I now have the pleasure to invite **Mr Kamel Ben Naceur**, representing the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency to welcome you.

Thank you, Mr Kamel Ben Naceur for these words of support.

It is now my privilege to request **Dr Ibrahim Al Muhanna**, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia **to welcome you on behalf of the host country of the International Energy Forum**.

Thank you Dr Ibrahim Al Muhanna I now in invite the designate representative of Her Excellency Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to take the floor.

Formal Opening Session ends transition into **informal** moderator role for Sessions I by inviting senior experts of OPEC, IEA and Richard Newell on behalf of IEF and Resources for the Future to take the floor in accordance with the agenda.

(no time or need for introductions as organisations and personalities are well known to all)